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new STREET NEWS

A publication by Seattle Public Utilities highlighting volunteer efforts to improve city neighborhoods **Volume 2, Issue 1**

Call us: **206.684.7647**
Visit us online: www.seattle.gov/util
E-mail us: AdoptAStreet@seattle.gov



A Shiny & New Newsletter

Informative, frequent and easy to read were the goals for the new Adopt-A-Street newsletter. This change reflects volunteer feedback for more communication and better readability. And the paper is environmentally friendly too; it is printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper. Please send us feedback!!

Spring Brings 20th Clean Thing

This year marks Spring Clean's 20th anniversary. The popular program continues to improve neighborhoods across Seattle. This year alone, more than 100 major cleanups are scheduled between April and June. AAS volunteer teams



Spring Clean volunteers maintain the new East Galer Green Space in Madison Park, a two-year community project.

are encouraged to take advantage of Spring Clean resources. If you want to carry out bigger projects beyond our program scope, Spring Clean is for you! This grass roots program can help with additional resources including tools, funds and staff expertise. Call **(206) 233-7187** for more information.

Honey, I Shrunk City Hall

Located all over Seattle, Neighborhood Service Centers (NSC) serve as miniature city halls providing easy access to city government services. Pay utility bills, apply for grants, learn about city services and contact elected officials. For even easier help, call the Citizen's Service Bureau at **(206) 684-CITY**. To find an NSC near you, visit www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods

Service Connects Generations

Maintaining the lengthy partnership with Cleveland High School Key Club, Bill Branom and the Seattle Industrial Kiwanis have continued monthly cleanups near the school campus. The group's more than 12 year membership demonstrates their shared commitment toward a cleaner Seattle and environmental stewardship.

Modeled by cities across the nation since its inception in 1987, Seattle's dynamic program remains vibrant because of groups like the Seattle Industrial Kiwanis and Cleveland High School Key Club.

Community Matters for Children's Hospital Employees

Four times a year since 2003, dozens of Children's associates gather at the hospital's Giraffe entrance to cleanup more than a mile of Sandpoint Way NE. Each cleanup is rewarding for these volunteers; employees come back time and again to meet new volunteers and catch up with old friends. When asking volunteers why they happily sacrifice a



Children's Hospital employees representing several departments gather for a pre-cleanup cheer

Saturday morning to do their neighborly deed, they enthusiastically explain that it's because of the mutual benefits of creating new friendships, learning from diverse volunteers and sharing a passion for community service. Children's Hospital & Regional Medical Center is one of the Adopt-A-Street program's finest teams.

Moving Toward New Heights

After spending several weeks brainstorming ways to keep Jefferson Park's Cheasty Boulevard clean, Willy Weir discovered the Adopt-A-Street program. With eager volunteers, the Jefferson Park Alliance took to work in Beacon Hill. Each monthly cleanup, volunteers sweep the meandering corridor. Since beginning, the group is delighted to report that cleanups have yielded significantly less litter.

This year, Jefferson Park Alliance takes their commitment to the next level. Joining a few elite AAS groups, they will be cleaning on a weekly basis. The group expects greater public awareness with increased effectiveness. The new commitment includes a partnership with local businesses to keep their properties clean while providing volunteer incentives.

Getting the Job Done Safely

We love our volunteers and take your safety seriously. AAS is constantly researching new effective and affordable equipment for our volunteers. Sharps containers, durable & brightly colored bags, safety vests and ergonomically-designed grabbers are just some of the tools.

Beyond careful selection of supplies, every volunteer completing the event sign-in sheet receives insurance coverage and group captains brief volunteers with our safety sheet before each event. For more information, call us or visit the web site for downloadable forms.

Progress in Beacon Ridge

Margaret's Mead's famous quote "Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world... indeed, that's all who ever have" describes Eric Spivack's new Beacon Ridge Improvement Coalition. Several concerned residents have partnered with the City to deter strangers from using public stairwells for criminal activity. Although there is much work to be done, neighbors have already removed truck loads of debris. Besides AAS activities, the Dept.



Clearing out illegal dumping and litter along their adopted North Beacon Hill neighborhood, volunteers take a break to congratulate each other for a job well done.

of Transportation is in the midst of rehabilitating the South Walker and South Hill Street public

introducing the...
CHALLENGE campaign

The Challenge Campaign is a fun and easy way for current volunteers to invite others to join Adopt-A-Street.

Fill out a post card and we'll send it off to the business, organization or individual. This is a great way to engage in friendly rivalry with neighbors and businesses while helping your neighborhood. New groups will receive recognition. For more information, contact **(206) 386-4008** or AdoptAStreet@seattle.gov

stairwells. Eric explains that the litter problem is certainly a work in progress but notes that he has been Impressed with the Adopt-A-Street's smooth and efficient responses to the community's needs. North Beacon Hill's ongoing partnerships demonstrate the possibilities when residents work collaboratively toward a common cause.

Clean & Green in Seattle

Interested in joining a major neighborhood improvement project? Mayor Greg Nickels' Clean & Green Seattle Initiative carries out



Volunteers remove invasive plants at a recent Seattle Clean & Green Cleanup in the Greenwood neighborhood.

monthly cleanups. A variety of improvements including street/light/drainage repairs, graffiti removal, tree planting take place on a Saturday morning. For more information, visit the Mayor's web site at www.seattle.gov/mayor or call **(206) 684-CITY**.

No Fair Weather Friends Here

At each cleanup, Zoë Vinier stresses the importance of teamwork and caring for the environment. Youth volunteers and other Church of Scientology members have dedicated time and effort to their stretch of Queen Anne for several years. Seattle's lush greenery bring extra work in winter months as flooding can occur when leaves fall from trees and collect near storm drains. The youth organized an extra cleanup to pick-up leaves to proactively prevent flooding. No matter rain,



Youth from the Church of Scientology of Washington brave winter weather to serve their Queen Anne community.

shine or cold, the Church of Scientology makes a strong showing at their quarterly cleanups. Their most recent cleanup took place on a cold

and blustery day right before the holiday season. Judging by the cleanliness of their neighborhood, youth's efforts definitely paid off.

Maintaining a Spotless U-District

Since joining the Adopt-A-Street program more than a year ago, the UW's Air Force Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) has made a huge impact in the University District. Initiated by Joel Herness, a junior student, the team proudly serves their community. Working diligently along heavily-used city streets, they blitz through the district collecting litter one item at a time.



University of Washington students with the Arnold Air Society snap a photo by their trashy bounty after a hard day's work.

GAINing Momentum

Inspired by cleanup progress made in other neighborhoods, Cathy Nolan and Cindy Potter set out to make a difference in North Seattle. Their determination resulted in the creation of the Greenwood-Aurora Involved Neighbors (GAIN). This team has been actively working with community members, businesses and the City of Seattle to improve their neighborhood.



Volunteers and the family dog join GAIN's Spring Clean event to beautify a traffic circle in Greenwood.

Monthly cleanups have at times brought more than 100 members. Participants joining the cleanups represent the ethnic and generational diversity of the neighborhood. Nolan and Potter have coordinated efforts with the Mayor's Office along with several City departments strategizing long-term positive impacts. GAIN's successful model is making a difference in their community and across the city.

newTEAMS

14th Avenue Division, Alan Mendelssohn, Alki Massage & Wellness Center, Ballard Boys & Girls Club, Beacon Ridge Improvement Coalition, Boeing IS Foundation, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Cherry Hill Neighborhood Assn., Columbia City Revivalist, G.A.I.N., Cristina Mullen & Natasha Puceta, Cub Scouts Pack 85, Eddie Allen & Catherine Vespa, UW Arnold Air Society, The Vickery Family, Univ. Cooperative School UW Korean Student Assn., Georgetown Guardians, N. Seattle Alliance Church, M.a.D.C.A.P., Improve N. Linden, Iron Mountain, Jefferson Park Alliance, Lockmore Neighborhood Assn., Youth With a Mission, Univ. Park Garden Club, Mars Hill Church, Mary Anne Parmeter, Salmon Bay School, Shinae Kim, St. Andrew Kim's Korean Catholic Church, Seattle Central Community College Circle K, G.A.I.N. Highland, Starbucks: 1st & Marion, Starbucks: Corson & Michigan, The Possible Dream, UW A.S.S.I.S.T.

inBRIEF

Kudos for Your Stellar Work!

You work hard keeping our fair city beautiful and you should be recognized for your selfless efforts! Bring your volunteer team for food, prizes and festivities. Your invitation will be coming soon!

Tag, You're Gone!

Every year, Seattle Public Utilities' Graffiti Rangers respond to thousands of graffiti complaints. Crews work hard responding in a timely manner. If you are interested in removing graffiti as part of an Adopt-A-Street event, you can call us for more information or file a report by calling the Graffiti Hotline at **(206) 684-7587**.

Making Your Cleanup Count

Remember to report your cleanup! Even if you do not need to return supplies or bag pickup service, we still need to hear from you. We want to provide volunteer recognition, confirm your active status and report on Adopt-A-Street's progress. Like all public programs, AAS must demonstrate quantifiable community benefit.

Reporting a cleanup event takes less than three minutes. Call the hotline or e-mail us. Provide us your name/group name, # of volunteers, # of hours, and # of bags collected (and locations for pickup). That's it, you're done!

Rain, Rain...Go-Away Come Today

Save water and the environment! Use rain water to water your gardens. For \$59 each, you can conserve water and keep your garden green.

Ordering is easy! Call **(206) 684-0190** to arrange for a convenient pickup time or for \$15, the barrel(s) can be delivered to your home (\$5 for each additional barrel).

Remembering Larry Gaffin

Everyone at Cleanup Command salutes Larry Gaffin with Center for Life Decisions. The City of Seattle thanks Larry for his hard work and tenacity. We'll miss you, our good friend.

